

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 30 are pending.

Claims 7, 8 and 10-15 are allowed.

Claims 16-29 are withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 9 and 30 are rejected.

Claims 1 and 30 are amended to recite a limitation drawn from allowed claim 7.

Claims 5, 6, 7 and 9 are additionally amended to correct typographical and idiomatic errors.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-15 and 30 remain in the case for reconsideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-8 and 10-15 are allowed.

The Examiner further indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim or any intervening claims.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 112

Claims 5, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 5 and 6 are amended to recite, “another plug,” instead of “another plugs” to correct an antecedent basis problem. Also, claim 9 is amended to recite, “one of the second plugs” to make it clear. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 be removed.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-6 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0005624, Aoyagi et al., (“Aoyagi”).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, “wherein the lower width of the pad is less than the upper width of the at least one plug,” which is drawn from claim 7, which has been allowed.

Thus, Aoyagi does not teach all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, Aoyagi does not anticipate claim 1. Also, claims 2-6, which depend from allowable claim 1 and recite features that are neither taught nor disclosed in the cited references, are also allowable.

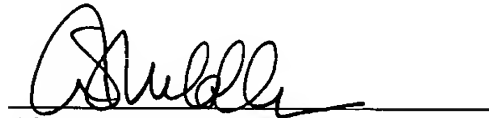
For the same reasons, claim 30 is allowable, which recite limitations to similar to those of claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 and 30 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Customer No. 20575

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. McCollom', is written over a horizontal line.

Alan T. McCollom
Reg. No. 28,881

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
1030 SW Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97205
503-222-3613